

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A media routing control device comprising:
a sensor configured to detect a characteristic of a media sheet;
a usable sheet media path;
an unusable sheet media path;
a sheet-inverting duplexing path configured to invert the media sheet; and
a controller electrically coupled to the sensor and configured to control routing of the media sheet along one of the media paths according to the detected characteristic
2. The media routing control device of claim 1, further comprising an input/output device electrically coupled to the controller, the input/output device configured to provide at least one previous use parameter to the controller.
3. The media routing control device of claim 2, wherein the at least one previous use parameter includes a threshold of the characteristic to cause the controller to route the sheet to the sheet-inverting duplexing path to invert the sheet.
4. The media routing control device of claim 1, further comprising an input tray configured to supply a plurality of media sheets to the sensor.
5. The media routing control device of claim 1, further configured to detachably attach to a sheet-fed device.
6. The media routing control device of claim 5, wherein the usable media path is configured to feed a properly oriented one of the at least one media sheet to the sheet-fed device.

7. A sheet-fed device comprising:
an input tray configured to hold a plurality of media sheets;
a media path including one of an imaging path including imaging circuitry operably configured therewith, an unusable media path, and a media-inverting duplexing path; and
media sensing circuitry for receiving one media sheet from the input tray and configured to determine print-impairing characteristics on the one media sheet and to convey the one media sheet to the media path.

8. The sheet-fed device of claim 7, wherein the media sensing circuitry is configured to detect on a side of the one media sheet at least one of an amount and location of the print-impairing characteristics of a previous printing to determine a usable side of the one media sheet.

9. The sheet-fed device of claim 8, wherein the sensing circuitry is further configured to direct inversion of the one media sheet to an opposite side to determine a usable side when detected.

10. The sheet-fed device of claim 7, further comprising an input/output device electrically coupled to the media sensing circuitry to define a threshold of the print-impairing characteristics.

11. A method for qualifying media for use with a sheet-fed device, the method comprising:
selecting a media sheet from an input tray;
transporting the media sheet past sensing circuitry;
collecting data from the sensing circuitry;
analyzing the data according to print-impairing characteristics;
routing the media sheet to a usable media path when the data from either side of the media sheet qualifies the media sheet for use by the sheet-fed device; and
routing the media sheet to a media-inverting duplexing path when the data from a first side of the media sheet fails to qualify the media sheet.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising routing the media sheet to an unusable media path when data from both sides of the media sheet fails to qualify the media sheet for use by the sheet-fed device.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein analyzing the data comprises determining one of an amount and location of the print-impairing characteristics on the media sheet.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein analyzing the data comprises:
selecting a threshold of the print-impairing characteristics; and
comparing the analyzed data to the threshold of the print-impairing characteristics.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein routing the media sheet comprises performing an imaging process on the media sheet.

16. A method for qualifying media sheets, the method comprising:
sensing for a first presence of previous printing characteristics on a first side of a media sheet;
routing the media sheet to a usable media path when the first presence is less than an unusable threshold;
inverting the media sheet to a second side when the first presence exceeds the unusable threshold;
sensing for a second presence of previous printing characteristics on a second side of the media sheet;
routing the media sheet to the usable media path when the second presence is less than the unusable threshold; and
routing the media sheet to an unusable media path when the second presence exceeds the unusable threshold.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein sensing comprises determining one of an amount and location of a previous printing on one of at least the first and the second sides of the media sheet.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the unusable threshold includes one of an amount and location of a previous printing on the media sheet.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the routing of the media sheet when one of the first and second presence exceeds the unusable threshold may be overridden by a user.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the routing of the media sheet when one of the first and second presence exceeds the unusable threshold may be rerouted to the usable media path when adequate space exists on one of the first or second sides of the media sheet to resize a prospective printed image on the media sheet.